

I would like to offer comment to the proposed change in media ownership rules.

When making a decision please keep in mind that many areas of this country are not rich in options for news and information. I come from Beaumont, Texas where there was only one local paper, and three television stations--ABC, CBS and NBC. There were about a half dozen local radio stations with only one being a public radio station, which provided no local news.

This town did have one thing--people who had political and personal financial interests. At times the interest in ensuring the outcome of an election bordered in obsession for some and a painful experience for others. There were and continue to be no state or local campaign finance laws, which present certain challenges to those with little in the way of resources to challenge established political representation. However, should media ownership rules change so that a single owner can hold control over the town's newspaper, three television stations and the half dozen or so radio stations then information on local events would cost the residents of that town a great deal in political freedom as well as informed consent on issues that affect their day-to-day lives.

Media ownership for small communities can make the difference between having an opportunity for informed electorate and one that is misinformed and unable to recognize its best interest when present with potentially bias information.

Please remember that not every community in this nation is like Washington, DC or New York, NY or Los Angeles, CA.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.